

PRESS NOTE

SUBJECT : DISPENSING OF “U” VISA STICKER ON PASSPORTS OF FOREIGN CITIZENS OF INDIAN ORIGIN HOLDING OCI CARD STATUS

Foreign citizens of Indian Origin who are eligible for registration as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder under Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, are issued a multiple lifelong “U” (Universal) Visa. Consequently, a visa sticker is pasted on the foreign passport of such applicants and they are required to carry the OCI card as well as the foreign passport containing the “U” Visa sticker while they enter / exit India. However, many OCI cardholders do not carry the passport containing the “U” visa sticker while they enter / exit India and hence face problems at the Immigration counter.

Against this background, the Govt. Of India was considering for some time to dispense with the “U” visa sticker on the foreign passport of the OCI cardholder. It has now been decided to dispense with the ”U” (Universal) Visa sticker on the foreign passport of OCI cardholders and to modify the OCI Registration Certificate in the booklet form to provide for the endorsement “Visa Validity – Lifelong”. In so far as the foreign nationals of India origin who are already holding OCI cards are concerned, the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued instructions to all the Indian Missions / Posts abroad and the FRROs in India not to insist on the production of the foreign passport containing the “U” Visa sticker while they enter / exit India and has advised these authorities to grant Immigration Clearance based on production of the OCI card only.

Foreign citizens of Goan origin holding OCI card status or those intending to apply for such status may kindly take note of the above decision of the Govt. Of India

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